

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINR BBAK FR NATO

SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC DATA: MR YVES LAULAN

REF: USNATO 4575

1. YVES LAULAN, WHO HAS BEEN NATOS ECONOMIC DIRECTOR SINCE 1969, LEAVES THE RANKS OF THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF SEPTEMBER 20 TO ACCEPT POSITION OF ECONOMIC ADVISOR WITH SOCIETE GENERALE. ACCORDING TO LAULAN, HE IS BEING SECONDED TO SOCIETE GENERALE BY THE FRENCH MINISTRY OF FINANCE WITH WHICH HE HAD BEEN ASSOCIATED SINCE 1964. LAULAN ALSO CLAIMS THAT HE PARTICIPATED IN THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN OF GISCARD D'ESTAING, AND AS A RESULT IN HIS NEW POSITION WILL MAINTAIN CLOSE LIAISON WITH THE PRESIDENTS OFFICE.

2. BORN IN BORDEAUX IN 1934, LAULAN GRADUATED FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF BORDEAUX WITH DEGREES IN POLITICAL SCIENCE AND BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION. AFTER GAINING A MASTERS DEGREE IN ECONOMICS AT NORTH CAROLINA UNIVERSITY, LAULAN RETURNED TO BORDEAUX FOR A DOCTORATE IN ECONOMICS. FROM 1961 TO 1964 LAULAN WORKED IN WASHINGTON AS AN ECONOMIST IN THE LATIN AMERICAN DIVISIONS OF THE IMF AND THE IBRD. FROM 1964 TO 1969 HE HELD VARIOUS POSTIONS IN THE FRENCH FINANCE MINISTRY, DEALING MOSTLY WITH NORTH AFRICAN AFFAIRS.

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3. LAULNA IS MARRIED AND HAD THREE YOUNG CHILDREN. BOTH HE AND HIS WIFE SPEAK ENGLISH AND SPANISH FLUENTLY. HE IS AN AVID COLLECTOR OF ANTIQUES, ANDN SPENDS HIS ANNUAL VACATIONS MOUNTAIN CLIMBING THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

4. LAULAN IS AMBITIOUS, AND IN RECENT YEARS HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY FRUSTRATED BY HIS INABILITY TO BRING ABOUT A GREAT EXPANSION IN THE SCOPE OF THE WORK OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE AND TO ACHIEVE ENHANCED STATUS FOR THE ECONOMIC DIRECTORATE WITHIN THE NATO HIERARCHY. LAULAN HAS GAINED A REPUTATION AS A HARD WORKER AND GOOD ADMINISTRATOR, WHO HAS STEERED THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE INTO NEW AREAS OF ACTIVITY DURING A PERIOD OF TRANSITION FROM CONFRONTATION TO CLOSER ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH COMMUNIST COUNTRIES. AT THE SAME TIME, AS A RESULT OF HIS OFTEN ABRASIVE MANNER AND EXAGGERATED OPINION OF HIS OWN IMPORTANCE AND BRILLIANCE, HE IS DISLIKED BY MANY OTHER SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF. MEMBERS OF NATOS ECONOMIC COMMITTEE, WHO REPRESENT ALLIANCE DELEGATIONS, HAVE A HIGH OPINION OF LAULAN'S INDEPENDENCE OF MIND, IMAGINATION AND ABILITY TO SEEK OUT AND IDENTIFY THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ELEMENTS IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS. AT THE SAME TIME, THEY DEPLORE HIS ATTEMPTS TO FORCE HIS PERSONAL VIEWS ON THE COMMITTEE AND THE DEVIOUS MEANS HE SOMETIMES RESORTS TO DO SO. NEVERTHELESS, DURING THE PAST YEAR, LAULAN HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY HELPFUL TO THE US IN HIS WORK TO IDENTIFY ALLIED MILITARY PROCUREMENT IN THE US WHICH MAY BE ELIGIBLE AS OFFSET TO MEET PROVISIONS OF THE JACKSON-NUNN AMENDMENT. HE MAY BE A VALUABLE CONTACT FOR EMBASSY PARIS, PARTICULARLY IF, AS HE CLAIMS, HIS POSITION WITH THE BANK IS QUASI-POLITICAL AND HE HAS CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE POWERS THAT BE. MCAULIFFE

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